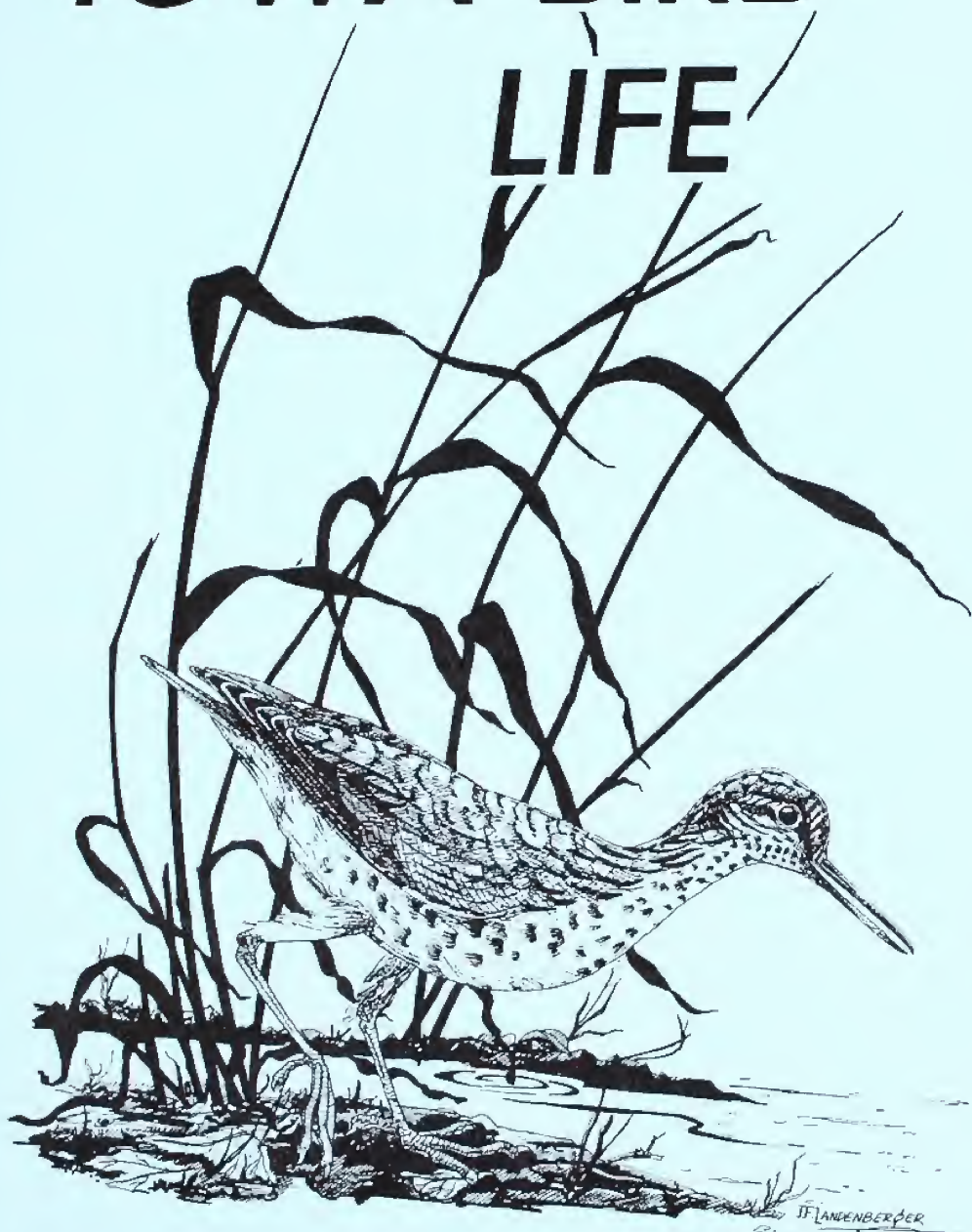


# IOWA BIRD LIFE



Vol. XLII No. 1

March, 1972

Published by the

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

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The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publication of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; THE BULLETIN 1929-1930; IOWA BIRD LIFE beginning 1931.

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATE:** \$4.00 a year, single copies \$1.00 each except where supply is limited to five or fewer copies, \$1.25. Subscriptions to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are five classes as follows: Life Member, \$100.00, payable in four equal installments; Contributing Member, \$10.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$5.00 a year; Regular Member, \$4.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$1.00 a year.

### EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE

235 McCLELLAN BLVD.

DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803

Published quarterly by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union at 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, Iowa, 52803. Second class postage paid at Davenport, Iowa. Subscription \$4.00, single copies \$1.00.

## CHRISTMAS COUNT



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A combination of favorable and unfavorable conditions combined to produce a record-tying number of species (115) and a record-setting number of individual birds on the 1971 Iowa Christmas Bird Census. The favorable conditions included the calendar which allowed three weekends and counts as early as December 18 and lack of snow or severely cold temperatures in much of the state throughout the period. The weather could be considered favorable in making tardy migrants more likely to linger and hiking more pleasant for the observer as well as unfavorable in failing to force birds to feeders, ducks to the open water of industrial areas or more restricted open water spots and grassland birds to the roadside. The species total of 115 equals the high of the 1969 census with one new species, the Yellow-breasted Chat visiting a Davenport feeder (see General Notes section for details), increasing the all-time total species since tabulated counts were begun in 1937 to 159. The high individual counts were led by Davenport (for the nineteenth time) with 76 species followed by Oakville (formerly listed as Aledo, Ill. but with Iowa coverage this year for the first time) with 68, Muscatine with 62, Clinton with 59 and Princeton with 55. The author was fortunate to be the compiler of these five counts as well as a participant on the Wheatland count.

The reason for the new record for individuals was the over one-half million geese and Mallards found at Shenandoah. Ducks in general were up from last year (see Table 1). They were difficult to approach in some cases along the Mississippi due to the lack of ice.

Hawks were down from the highs of last year but above the 1969 totals. Table 2 compares 1971 with the hawks noted in last year's summary (I.B.L. Vol. 50 p. 4). Hawk observations are more closely related to party hours than the observations of other species such as ducks, a good reason for the inclusion of this data in future Iowa summaries.

Owls were down despite the continued use of tape recorders. The species usually recorded by sight observation rather than response to taped calls were off the most as one can see by referring to Table 3. Short-eared Owls were down more than the other species and their decrease could be due to the tendency of many field parties to terminate observations before these owls become active in late afternoon. Prime habitat, flat grassland, should be located during the day and checked at about 4:30 P.M., for Short-ears.

Finches appeared in much better numbers than 1970 but not in the concentrations of 1969. Table 4 continues the comparison of some of these species which was begun last year (I.B.L. Vol. 50 p. 4). The Evening Grosbeaks did exceed the 1969 totals and Pine Siskins came close to these totals also.



Other species which also showed major variations from last year included Bald Eagles which almost doubled in number, American Coots which tripled in number, and gulls, up greatly due to the concentrations still lingering at Davenport. Red-headed Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers doubled, probably another result of mild weather. Three species of warbler were seen on this count, the first time more than one species was seen on the same count.

The more unusual species included a Turkey Vulture at Muscatine, the fourth Iowa count record; two Glaucous Gulls at Davenport, the fifth year for Iowa count records; Hermit Thrushes at Ames and Muscatine for the third and fourth Iowa count records and the warblers mentioned previously, first Chat, second year for Orange-crowned and third record for Myrtles. It is interesting to note that all shrikes recorded prior to 1955 were listed as Northern Shrikes, while since 1955 both species have been recorded as well as some unidentified shrikes. This is probably the result of the old idea that all wintering shrikes were Northern. It was good to note an increase in the number of identified meadowlarks. Many times it is impossible to get a good enough look to properly identify them, but often they can be pursued and observed closely enough for species identification.

Table 1 - Numbers of ducks seen on the 1969, 1970 and 1971 Christmas Bird Censuses in Iowa.

| Species                | 1969   | 1970   | 1971    |
|------------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Mallard                | 24,819 | 18,425 | 252,265 |
| Black Duck             | 51     | 74     | 78      |
| Gadwall                | 7      |        | 8       |
| Pintail                | 2      | 16     | 21      |
| Green-winged Teal      | 4      | 1      | 5       |
| Blue-winged Teal       | 5      | 8      | 3       |
| American Widgeon       | 3      | 7      | 14      |
| Wood Duck              | 2      | 9      | 34      |
| Redhead                | 1      | 1      | 11      |
| Ring-necked Duck       | 2      |        | 7       |
| Canvasback             | 5      | 1      | 5,004   |
| Lesser Scaup Duck      | 27     | 33     | 62      |
| Common Golden-eye      | 327    | 265    | 389     |
| Bufflehead             | 3      |        |         |
| Old Squaw              | 2      | 1      |         |
| White-winged Scooter   | 14     |        |         |
| Hooded Merganser       | 5      | 2      | 2       |
| Common Merganser       | 84     | 195    | 698     |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 7      |        | 10      |

Table 2 - Numbers of some hawks seen on the 1969, 1970 and 1971 Christmas Bird Census in Iowa.

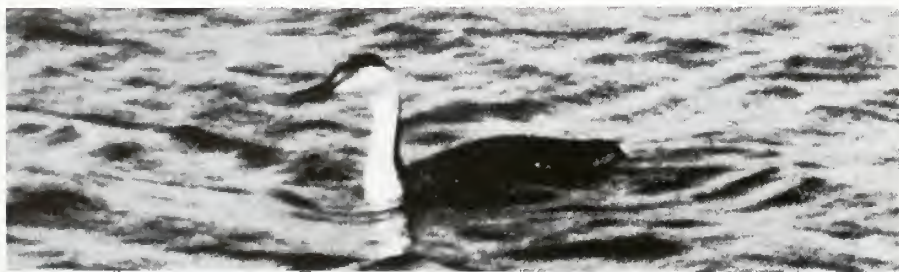
| Species             | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|
| Sharp-shinned Hawk  | 3    | 9    | 4    |
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 219  | 351  | 300  |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 6    | 12   | 7    |
| Rough-legged Hawk   | 40   | 109  | 71   |
| Marsh Hawk          | 46   | 141  | 109  |

Table 3 - Numbers of owls seen on the 1969, 1970 and 1971 Iowa Christmas Bird Censuses.

| Species          | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Screech Owl      | 41   | 51   | 29   |
| Great Horned Owl | 50   | 78   | 82   |
| Snowy Owl        |      |      | 1    |
| Barred Owl       | 37   | 48   | 27   |
| Long-eared Owl   | 19   | 21   | 10   |
| Short-eared Owl  | 57   | 55   | 20   |
| Saw-whet Owl     | 1    | 3    | 4    |

Table 4 - Numbers of some selected finches seen on the 1969, 1970 and 1971 Iowa Christmas Bird Censuses.

| Species             | 1969   | 1970  | 1971  |
|---------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Cardinal            | 2,740  | 2,299 | 2,332 |
| Evening Grosbeak    | 13     | 3     | 54    |
| Purple Finch        | 410    | 267   | 177   |
| Common Redpoll      | 767    | 4     | 36    |
| Pine Siskin         | 273    | 8     | 236   |
| American Goldfinch  | 1,974  | 848   | 1,461 |
| Red Crossbill       | 218    | 21    |       |
| Slate-colored Junco | 12,915 | 6,166 | 7,828 |



Western Grebe -- Coralville Reservoir near Lake MacBride, Nov. 16, 1971. Photo by F. W. Kent.

1. AKRON (15 mile diameter around Bryant farm) Dec. 22; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Temp. 22 - 32 F; wind 15 mph from East. One observer - Eldon J. Bryant.

Other species seen during census period: Rough-legged Hawk, Black-capped Chickadee, Cardinal.

2. AMES (All points within a fifteen mile diameter circle to include Ames, ISU Campus, State Forest Nursery, Soper Mill Access, Skunk River and Squaw Creek bottoms) Dec. 19; 12:01 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. 28-42 F; wind 5 mph from N-NW; sky clear, ground bare with snow only in scattered patches, rivers and creeks 40 percent open, some drainage ditches open, ponds frozen, fall plowing heavy. Observers (19) in 5 parties: Kevin Bowen, Dick Crawford, Tony Habenschuss, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hanselmann, Paul Hollander, Brian Ladd, George Ladd, Alan Miller, Douglas Miller, Dr. and Mrs. Lotus Miller, Peter Roberts, Jim Rod (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rod, Gerald Rook, Frank Schneider, Judy Totemeier.

Details of unusual observations: Harlan's Hawk was seen overhead at 50 yards in good light by Steve Hanselmann. Light tail with definite dark tail terminal band was noted. Steve is familiar with this species from several trips to Southwestern U. S. Hermit Thrush and Oregon Junco were observed by Steve and all field marks noted. Saw-whets in two different areas are new record for Ames count. Winter Wren was seen well for several minutes. Snipe were present for several days prior to count in two different areas.

Other species seen during census period: Eastern Bluebird.

Comments: Relatively mild weather prior to count date apparently responsible for appearance of Hermit Thrush, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows. Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers are up this year with fewer observers in the field. Three parties with tape recorders called owls before dawn.

3. BURLINGTON (15-mile diameter, Center Jct. Hwys 34 and 61). Jan. 2; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 24 - 33 F; wind 4-10 mph from N.N.W. Mostly cloudy, very light snow cover, Mississippi River frozen over except 50 percent open above and below dam 18. Observers (14) in 5 parties: M. and J. Barker, J. Foss, C. & J. Fuller, F. & E. Leopold, H. Linder, A. & J. Lowther, Jack McLane (compiler), S. McLane, A. and P. Niemann.

4. CEDAR FALLS (First and Main streets is the center of our fifteen diameter circle, including Wyth State Park, Knoll's Feeder, Hartman Reserve, Robertson Sanctuary, fields north of Hudson, Falls Access Area) Dec. 19: 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. 28-32 F; wind 5 mph from south. Overcast, open ground; forest, no snow cover, open water. Observers (10) in 4 parties: Eleanor Corwin (compiler), Bill Demarais, George Dodd, Evelyn Ehlers, Richard Galz, Russell Hays, Bill Porter, Lois Sherman, Florence Velie, and Mrs. Fred Knoll at the feeder.

Details of unusual observations: Canada Goose not recorded by us since 1952, found by (EC,EE,LS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker seen at feeder (FN).

5. CEDAR RAPIDS (Fifteen mile diameter circle centered on Federal Building - same as in previous years, including Cedar Lake, Cedar River, Marion Springs, woodlands, orchards, nurseries, fields and roadsides) Dec. 16: 6:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp.: 34-19 F Wind: 5-15 mph from N. Overcast, 100 percent, ground bare, river with no ice. Observers (27) in 5 parties: Mrs. Sue Appert, Mr. Leroy Bata, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Beam, Mr. and Mrs. James Clifton, Wendell Clifton, Mrs. Viola Groth, Mr. Eldon Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Layton, Mrs. Lucile Liljedahl, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mellgren, Mrs. Sara Millikin, Mrs. Roberta Op-pedahl, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Rosenberg, Miss Lillian Serbousek, (compiler), Mrs. Barbara Shaffer, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Rob Vane, Dr. Peter Wickham, Miss Myra Willis, Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich Zobac.

Details of unusual observations: Swainson's Hawk seen perched at about 35 feet and also flying rather low to observe field marks, as throat and breast markings, well. Observed by Myra Willis and three others.

Other species seen during census period: Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Robin, Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, White-throated Sparrow.

Comments: A tape-recorder was used by one group to attract owls.

6. CLINTON (15 mile diameter circle, center Elk River Jct., Iowa, same as previous years). Jan. 1; 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 30-36 F; wind 5-8 mph from SW. Partly cloudy, overcast in P.M., ground bare, river 10 percent ice covered. Observers (12) in 4 parties: Jay Bellinger, Elton Fawks, John Jachino, Mrs. Elynor King, Fred and Maurice Leshner, Don Mullison, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler, David Rader, Ernie Sadler, Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.



## CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

7

Details of unusual observations: Myrtle Warblers seen due to hearing their call note first. Observed at about 150 feet with 20 X scope (DM,PP).

Other species seen during census period: Canada Goose, Cedar Waxwing, and Evening Grosbeak.

7. DAVENPORT (15 mile diameter circle centered on former toll house location on Memorial Bridge (I 74), same as previous years). Dec. 19; 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 33-39 F; wind 5-12 mph from SW. Overcast, ground bare, rivers and creeks open. Observers (32) in 19 parties: Mrs. Fred Adams, Mr. and Mrs. William Atwood, Marcella Campbell, Allen Carlson, Ed Carlton, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dau, Dale Dickinson, Tom Doering Jr., Elton Fawks, Tom Frank, Philip Frazier, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Frink, Mark Henderson, Mrs. Fred Hunt Jr., Pat Lonacker, Karen McDonald, Mrs. Frank Marquis, Don Mullison, Mrs. Robert Palley, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), David Rader, Frank Rodl, Ernie Sadler, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Swanson, Paul Van Nieuwenhuyse, Mable Weise, Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: Geese all seen in flight moving south. Osprey carefully observed all field marks noted (FM). Glaucous Gulls present since late November, well observed (EF). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Brown Thrasher and Yellow-breasted Chat visiting feeders regularly. See longer note on the chat.

Other species seen during census period: White-winged Scoter, Carolina Wren.

8. DECORAH (All points within a 15-mile diameter, center NE corner Sec. 24, T99N, R8W) Dec. 30: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp: 21-24 F. Wind: 9-17 mph from NW, snow a.m., clear p.m., 8 in. new snow cover, waters 75 percent open. Observers (14) in 4 parties: Florence Albright, Francis Arness, Jan Bahr, Allen Branham, Cletus Houdek, David Hovde, Oivind Hovde, Darwin Koenig (compiler), Patricia Koenig, Verne Koenig, Ron Lecander, Terry Lecander, Russ Rulon, John Tjostem.

Details of unusual observations: Pied-billed Grebe -- good, close observation, all field marks checked. Brown Thrasher -- all field marks checked.

Comments: Highest number of species in 16 year history of the count.

9. DES MOINES (15-mile circle, center at 63rd & Center Sts., Pinehill Cem., Sycamore Park, Camp Dodge, Fishers L., Denman Woods, Ashworth Park, Walnut Woods, Maffit Res., Brown's Woods, Glendale Cem., Ashby, Beaverdale, Birdland and Union Parks, Easter Lake, Flint Access, Laurel Hill Cem.) Dec. 18: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 17-49 F, wind: 5 mph from south. Clear, no snow cover, some open water. Observers (26) in (5) parties; Mrs. Ruth Binsfeld, Wm. Boller (compiler), Mrs. Margaret Brooke, Stuart Brower, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Brown, Paul Brown, Woodward H. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. L. DeGarmo, Oliver Graves, Lester Haskell, Mr. and Mrs. James Ludington, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Moonney, Mrs. Marcia Nicholson, Pontus Ostman, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley, Sylvan Runkle, Steve Stuart, Beth Van Cleve, Mrs. Lurene Warters, Mary Ellen Warters, Mrs. T. C. Westrom.

Details of unusual observations: Wood Ducks again found in stream of warm water from an industrial plant. Towhee, spotted subspecies, has been in the area for several weeks.

Other species seen during census period: Am. Widgeon, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Snow Bunting.





# CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

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|                          | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5    | 6    | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16   | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20   | 21   | 22   | 23   | 24   | 25  | 26  | 27   |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|
| Pileated Woodpecker      | 18  | 36  | 1   | 2   | 15   | 20   | 41   | 23   | 27   | 19   | 4   | 14  | 9   | 14  | 8    | 56   | 36  | 3   | 3   | 13   | 10   | 7    | 12   | 11   | 2   | 2   | 1    |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker   | 11  | 31  | 2   | 8   | 35   | 81   | 23   | 1    | 7    | 16   | 35  | 27  | 1   | 31  | 73   | 47   | 1   | 12  | 7   | 7    | 14   | 7    | 1    | 1    | 2   | 3   | 13   |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 1   | 2   | 3   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Hairy Woodpecker         | 2   | 70  | 49  | 54  | 57   | 41   | 112  | 25   | 61   | 24   | 37  | 23  | 35  | 15  | 30   | 58   | 9   | 2   | 2   | 7    | 30   | 15   | 23   | 23   | 60  | 9   | 242  |
| Downy Woodpecker         | 23  | 2   | 22  | 26  | 87   | 136  | 243  | 93   | 73   | 34   | 22  | 143 | 33  | 72  | 63   | 139  | 9   | 11  | 7   | 107  | 34   | 17   | 84   | 17   | 26  | 46  | 7909 |
| Horned Jay               | 5   | 36  | 82  | 26  | 87   | 136  | 243  | 93   | 73   | 34   | 22  | 143 | 33  | 72  | 63   | 139  | 9   | 11  | 7   | 107  | 34   | 17   | 84   | 17   | 26  | 46  | 56   |
| Common Crow              | 3   | 74  | 39  | 151 | 282  | 195  | 406  | 126  | 456  | 46   | 344 | 35  | 110 | 31  | 130  | 1740 | 17  | 62  | 12  | 240  | 10   | 38   | 11   | 35   | 196 | 367 | 42   |
| Black-capped Chickadee   | 7   | 82  | 137 | 78  | 128  | 74   | 229  | 82   | 193  | 12   | 37  | 96  | 63  | 41  | 58   | 81   | 14  | 19  | 1   | 280  | 57   | 32   | 56   | 86   | 7   | 20  | 24   |
| Tufted Titmouse          | 2   | 38  | 2   | 16  | 26   | 69   | 10   | 25   | 2    | 10   | 4   | 3   | 21  | 21  | 38   | 7    | 5   | 3   | 19  | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3   | 3   | 34   |
| White-breasted Nuthatch  | 43  | 24  | 56  | 44  | 22   | 67   | 32   | 58   | 16   | 13   | 20  | 34  | 10  | 28  | 33   | 2    | 2   | 4   | 9   | 15   | 11   | 10   | 14   | 3    | 27  | 29  | 64   |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch    | 3   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 7    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Brown Creeper            | 15  | 11  | 8   | 7   | 15   | 3    | 1    | 1    | 4    | 2    | 1   | 4   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Winter Wren              | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Carolina Wren            | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Mockingbird              | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Calbird                  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Brown Thrasher           | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Robin                    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Hermit Thrush            | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Eastern Bluebird         | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet     | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Cedar Waxwing            | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Northern Shrike          | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Loggerhead Shrike        | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Starling                 | 112 | 667 | 618 | 373 | 1694 | 990  | 5696 | 192  | 3025 | 1581 | 127 | 168 | 273 | 11  | 890  | 760  | 25  | 470 | 131 | 834  | 100+ | 100+ | 812  | 5000 | 6   | 377 | 185  |
| Orange-crowned Warbler   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Myrtle Warbler           | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Yellow-breasted Chat     | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| House Sparrow            | 65  | 633 | 418 | 390 | 1259 | 1310 | 4329 | 1489 | 838  | 556  | 285 | 422 | 456 | 382 | 1496 | 2478 | 212 | 150 | 365 | 1772 | 100+ | 100+ | 2356 | 2000 | 117 | 797 | 272  |
| Eastern Meadowlark       | 30  | 18  | 3   | 17  | 7    | 2446 | 6    | 400  | 5    | 1    | 40  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Western Meadowlark       | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Meadowlark species       | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Red-winged Blackbird     | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Belted Kingfisher        | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Rusty Blackbird          | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Common Grackle           | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Brown-headed Cowbird     | 40  | 176 | 39  | 140 | 143  | 454  | 178  | 127  | 21   | 48   | 59  | 30  | 62  | 133 | 259  | 4    | 29  | 11  | 71  | 25   | 34   | 78   | 24   | 7    | 123 | 37  |      |
| Cardinal                 | 16  | 12  | 2   | 17  | 24   | 24   | 10   | 29   | 3    | 8    | 11  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Evening Grosbeak         | 6   | 55  | 1   | 5   | 13   | 43   | 10   | 9    | 6    | 70   | 50  | 23  | 16  | 170 | 83   | 11   | 2   | 3   | 11  | 10   | 22   | 37   | 66   | 28   | 97  | 10  |      |
| Pine Siskin              | 36  | 61  | 33  | 62  | 141  | 213  | 74   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| American Goldfinch       | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Rufous-sided Towhee      | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Savanna Sparrow          | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Vesper Sparrow           | 23  | 272 | 887 | 157 | 485  | 395  | 1117 | 769  | 454  | 43   | 102 | 111 | 179 | 275 | 506  | 433  | 53  | 14  | 16  | 223  | 93   | 245  | 242  | 128  | 54  | 504 | 35   |
| Slate-colored Junco      | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Oregon Junco             | 25  | 330 | 227 | 137 | 40   | 1010 | 571  | 971  | 195  | 44   | 164 | 301 | 115 | 590 | 479  | 690  | 74  | 135 | 9   | 545  | 86   | 1000 | 947  | 400  | 85  | 669 | 106  |
| Tree Sparrow             | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Field Sparrow            | 12  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Harris Sparrow           | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| White-crowned Sparrow    | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2    | 2    | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2   | 2   |      |
| White-throated Sparrow   | 6   | 6   | 6   | 6   | 6    | 6    | 6    | 6    | 6    | 6    | 6   | 6   | 6   | 6   | 6    | 6    | 6   | 6   | 6   | 6    | 6    | 6    | 6    | 6    | 6   | 6   |      |
| Fox Sparrow              | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3    | 3    | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3   | 3   |      |
| Swamp Sparrow            | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3    | 3    | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3   | 3   |      |
| Song Sparrow             | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3    | 3    | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3   | 3   |      |
| Lapland Longspur         | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |
| Total species            | 15  | 50  | 52  | 35  | 48   | 59   | 76   | 46   | 52   | 39   | 43  | 35  | 37  | 32  | 62   | 68   | 35  | 26  | 20  | 55   | 30   | 33   | 46   | 35   | 28  | 41  | 34   |
| No. of observers         | 1   | 19  | 14  | 10  | 27   | 12   | 32   | 14   | 26   | 19   | 7   | 8   | 17  | 1   | 9    | 10   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2    | 7    | 8    | 6    | 7    | 13  | 5   | 13   |
| No. of parties           | 1   | 5   | 5   | 4   | 5    | 4    | 19   | 4    | 5    | 3    | 2   | 3   | 7   | 1   | 3    | 4    | 4   | 1   | 1   | 3    | 4    | 2    | 4    | 7    | 1   | 3   | 1    |

10. DUBUQUE (A 15-mile diameter circle centered on Center Grove Cemetery including Linwood Cemetery, John Deere, Sherrill, Peosta Valley, Dubuque's Grave, Miss. River and Sloughs) Dec. 26: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp: 35-30 F. Wind: 9 mph from NE. Fog and drizzle all day; bare ground, river open. Observers (9) in (3) parties: Frieda Crossley, George Crossley (compiler), Warren Finch, Patricia Heidenreich, Howard Higley Jr., Howard R. Higley, Joan Higley, Delbert Ludwig, Phyllis Shultz.

Details of unusual observations: Brown Thrasher came to feeder all during December.

Other species seen during census period: Red-breasted Merganser, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Common Grackle.

11. IOWA CITY (15 mile diameter circle, center near North Liberty) Dec. 23: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 34-44 F. Wind: 6-10 mph from SE, overcast, ground bare, river and lake partly frozen. Observers (7) in 2 parties: N. S. Halmi, Robert Hulbary, Bill, Tom and Fred Kent (compiler), Phil Pollock and J. C. Taylor.

Other species seen during census period: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Pintail, Common Golden-eye, Barred Owl, Cedar Waxwing, and Evening Grosbeak.

12. LAMONI (Parts of a 15-mile diameter circle centered at intersection of I-35 and U.S. 69, 2½ miles east of Lamoni; including Graceland College Campus, Nine Eagles Park, country roads and farm land.) Dec. 23: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Temp. 35-45 F; Wind 10 mph from SSW; Cloudy, ground bare, streams and ponds open. Eight observers in 3 parties: Mrs. Dean Ballantyne, Mrs. Wallace DeLong, Bill, David, Jim, and J. Donald Gillaspey (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver.

Details of unusual observations: Canada Geese seen on Nine Eagles Lake; Snipe seen near city sewage lagoon; Orange-crowned Warbler seen at feeder at close range.

Other species seen during census period; Killdeer, Screech Owl, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak

13. MARSHALLTOWN (15 mile diameter circle centered on E27 one mile east of Highway 14, and including Union Grove Lake, Timmons Grove Park, roadsides, and open farm lands.) Dec. 18: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp: 7-46 F; Wind: 8-10 mph from SW in the P.M. Clear to partly cloudy, wind light from the North in the morning, snow in ditches, lake 90 percent ice covered, streams open. Observers (17) in 7 parties: including two at feeders - Dorothy Brunner, Mr. and Mrs. George Crowther, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Glasgow, Orville Grimes, Mrs. Richard Huff, Carl Kurtz, Mrs. A. H. McFarland, Mrs. John Mowry, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Prescott, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Savage (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. James Wignall, and Ruth Zorn.

Details of unusual observations: Brown Thrasher at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Glasgow.

Other species seen during census period: Turkey Vulture.

Comments: We did not use a recorder for owls. Both finds of owls were seen in the field.

14. McKain's Access (15-mile diameter circle centered on McKain's Access (Skunk River) in SW Washington Co., and including Lake Darling State Park, river bottom, country roads, fields, railroad right-of-way), Dec. 31: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp.: 20-43 F; Wind: 6-20 mph from SSW. Bright sun; ground mostly clear or with one-half inch of snow; some open water at Lake Darling. One observer - Kathy Fisher.

Details of unusual observations: Broad-winged Hawk was in same area as the one seen last winter; the wide black and white tail bands and black primary tips



were noted. The Red-shouldered Hawk was observed for about 10 minutes, both perched and in flight; the translucent wing "windows" were clearly visible, and the pale red underparts were noted.

Comments: Hawks, in general, are in plentiful supply this year.

15. MUSCATINE (15 mile diameter circle, center Lock and Dam 16, same as previous years). Dec. 18: 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 14-36 F; wind 5-20 mph from W. Clear, ground bare, river open. Observers (9) in 3 parties; Philip Frazier, Mark Henderson, Pat Lonacker, Don Mullison, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), David Rader, Ernie Sadler, Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: Red-shafted Flicker and Northern Shrike closely observed under excellent light conditions and all markings were noted (PF, and PL).

16. OAKVILLE (Formerly ALEDO, ILL.) (15 mile diameter circle, center 4 miles East of New Boston, Illinois as previous years), Dec. 26: 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 32-36 F; wind 0-15 mph from NW. Overcast, light mist, ground bare, river open. Observers (10) in 4 parties; Elton Fawks, Gerald Gill, Richard and Ted Greer, Norwood Hazard, Joe Hoffeditz, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), David Rader, Merlin Snike, Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Comment: For the first time Iowa territory was covered on this count, hence the change of name.

17. OGDEN (15 mile diameter circle, center Keenan Farm) Dec. 28: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 10-20 F; wind 5-10 mph South. Partly cloudy, ground bare, most streams open. One observer - Jim Keenan.

18. OSKALOOSA (15 mile diameter circle centered on the Mahaska County Courthouse, including Lake Keomah State Park and South Skink River.) Jan. 2: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp.: 20 to 28 F; Wind: 1 mph from S. Very light snow falling, early in day, clearing later,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of snow on ground. Very small amount of open water in sheltered areas. One observer - Keith D. Layton.

19. PINE HOLLOW (A 15 mile diameter circle Farley, Iowa to and including White Pine Hollow Preserve). Jan. 1: 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Temp.: 30-35 F; Wind: 5 mph from N. Overcast to partly cloudy; about 3" old snow over frozen sleet. Observers (2) in one party: George Crossley (compiler), Howard Higley Jr.

Details of unusual observations: Fewer birds than usual; only one chickadee, no titmice.

20. PRINCETON (15 mile diameter circle, center Follets, Iowa, same as previous years) Dec. 23: 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 35-45 F; wind 10-20 mph from SW. Overcast, ground bare, river and all creeks open. Observers (7) in 3 parties; Philip Frazier, Mrs. Elynor King, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler, Paul Van Nieuwenhuysse, Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: The Great Blue Heron was at the Princeton Marsh wooded area. Despite the open conditions puddle ducks were again concentrated at the "feeder" mentioned last year at Camanche.

21. RATHBUN LAKE (A 15-mile circle with Seymour on the one extreme of the axis and Honey Creek area of the Lake on the other. We covered all of the southern reaches of the Lake, plus the Honey Creek area and much of the area between Seymour and the Lake, within this circle), Dec. 31: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 24-40 F; Wind: 10 mph from South. Sunny and mild -- practically no cloud cover. No ground cover. Lake had large areas of open water. Observers (8) in 4



parties: Jeanne Davis, Catherine Evans, Earlene Gold, Gerald Long, Alice McMurry, Maxine Morrow, Bondene Rissler and Charlotte Scott (compiler), plus Colas Hellyer, Genevieve Liggett, Norma McKelvy and the Jim Mickey's at feeders.

Details of unusual observations: The estimates on Canvasback and Mallard ducks were made by a park officer, Gerald Long, listed among the observers. The Gadwalls seem to be the only unusual listing, but they were observed for a long period of time and at close range.

Other species seen during census period: Could we have made this count at the first part of the period, we could have added many more ducks and geese -- also Great Blue Heron, Am. Coot, Turkey Vultures. Next year we will try to get with it earlier! Also swans.

Comments: This was the first experience with a count for any in our group, but it generated a great deal of interest and enthusiasm. I'm sure we'll be back for more.

22. RED ROCK (15 mile diameter circle, centered at Red Rock Refuge Hdq.) Jan. 2: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp.: 20-40 F; Wind: 0-5 mph from S. Clear, ground bare. Observers (6) in 2 parties: Gladys Black (compiler), Woodward H. Brown, Dick Mooney, Jim Rod, Linda Smith, Judy Totemeier.

Other species seen during census period: Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Snow Bunting.

Comments: Coverage not as complete as last year.

23. SHENANDOAH (15 mile diameter area with Farragut as center, to include the Riverton Area.) Dec. 18: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 17-54 F; Wind: 5-15 mph from S - SW. Clear skies, ground clear, rivers mostly frozen. Observers (7) in 4 parties: Donald Burrichter, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Mrs. Eldon Spears, Mrs. Edward Vaughan, Mrs. Donald Walters, and Mrs. Emmett Zollars.

Details of unusual observations: Golden Eagle and Bald Eagles observed at Riverton by Mrs. Spears and Mrs. Zollars. Red-shafted Flicker observed at close range by Mr. and Mrs. Diggs. Winter Wren observed at close range by Mrs. Spears and Mrs. Zollars. Oregon Junco seen at Mrs. Eldon Spears' feeder.

Other species seen during census period: Canada Goose, Pintail, Mockingbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Evening Grosbeak, and White-crowned Sparrow.

Comments: The totals for waterfowl were obtained from Donald Priebe, area game warden, who estimated the number of waterfowl present on Dec. 18. Iowa Conservation Comm. made weekly aerial counts - the last one before count was Dec. 16.

24. SIOUX CITY (15 mile diameter circle of Sioux City Auditorium - same area as previous years.) Dec. 18: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 17-41 F; Wind: 12 mph from S.E. Ground mostly bare, Missouri River open, some floating ice, lakes and streams open in some areas, mild winter up to this date. Observers (13) in 7 parties: Mrs. Lyle Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson, Robert L. Nickolson (compiler), Mrs. Ralph Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Garland Roose, Miss Ruth Sampson, Edward Sibley, Jr., Miss Gertrude Weaver and Dr. Morgan Webb.

Other species seen during census period: Marsh Hawk, Robin, Brown-headed Cowbird, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch.

Comments: Winter conditions have been quite mild up to count date. We had recorded a number of geese the week prior to count.

25. WAPSIPINICON RIVER VALLEY (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Sec. 2, Maxfield Twp., Bremer Co., to include Big Woods near Denver,

Sweet Marsh Refuge, Plum Creek, Seven Bridges Park, Crane Creek, W. River Valleys, farm lands 60 percent woods 40 percent) Dec. 18: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp.: 18-38 F; Wind: E to S 10 mph. Sunshine with few scattered clouds, snow covered ground; water flowing in river. Observers (5) in one party: Myrle M. Burk (compiler), Richard Evans, Ruth Halliday, Russell Hays, John Osness.

Details of unusual observations: The Red-headed Woodpecker count was noted; they were seen in several areas of woodlands.

Other species seen during census period: Mourning Dove.

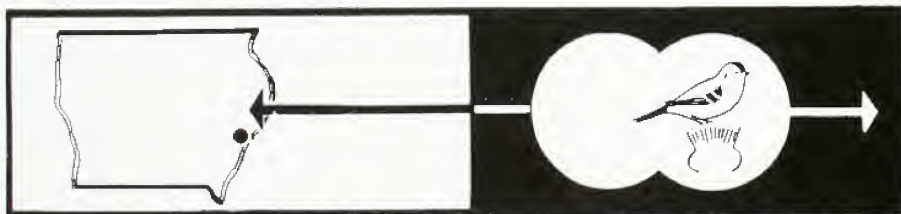
26. WHEATLAND (Count area included a 15-mile diameter circle centered on Wheatland, Clinton County, Iowa.) Dec. 31: 5:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp: 20-30 F; Wind: 0-12 mph from Southwest. Clear, cloudless skies with approximately 2-3 inches accumulated snow cover. Afternoon temperatures rose high enough to melt snow on south-facing slopes. Observers (13) in 3 parties: C. Esther Copp, Don Mullison, Peter C. Petersen, Landa, Teresa, Tim and Tom Rowold, Jeanette, Jeff and Judy Ruprecht, Ernie Sadler, Charles and June Wentworth.

Other species seen during census period: Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Comments: Recorded owl calls were played as a means of stimulating responses from Great Horned and Screech Owls in the census area during the pre-dawn period.

27. YELLOW RIVER FOREST (All points within a 15-mile diameter, center NE corner Sec. 8 T96N, R3W.) Dec. 21: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 18-33 F; Wind: 2-10 mph from SW. Clear, little snow cover, waters 60 percent frozen. Observers (5) in one party: Oivind Hovde, Darwin Koenig (compiler), Ron Lecander, Arnold Rohm, Russ Rulon.

Details of unusual observations: Carolina Wren -- all field marks carefully checked. A pleasant surprise this far north. Ruby-crowned Kinglet -- all field marks checked. It was with the Golden-crowned Kinglets.



## Muscatine and Louisa Counties

PETER C. PETERSEN  
235 McClellan Blvd.  
DAVENPORT, IOWA

Muscatine 1970 population: 22,405

Average annual precipitation: 33.7 inches

Normal mean annual temperature average: 50 degrees F.

Area covered by this report: about 800 sq. miles

11 year average species Christmas census record: 52.4 (Muscatine)

### Introduction:

Despite its proximity to Davenport and Iowa City this area, for the most part,







has not been intensely worked for birds. Areas along the Mississippi River, Wild Cat Den State Park, Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, Louisa Unit and the Cones Marshes are often visited by birders from nearby areas and consequently better known. The only local birder who has worked in the area is Richard Hanft of Nichols. Some of the adjacent Illinois areas are mentioned.

Dominating the topography of this area are three river valleys, the Cedar and Iowa which join near Columbus Junction and the Mississippi. Near West Liberty in northwestern Muscatine County is an area of flat plain featuring birds like Swainson's Hawks breeding east of their usual range. This area was once the bed of glacial Lake Calvin. Considerable woodland occurs along the three large rivers, chiefly on private land. The area near the mouth of the Iowa River is especially wooded to the north and the major problem encountered birding is one of access. Since the area is adjacent to Scott County many of the general remarks made in that introduction apply to this area. (See I.B.L. Vol. 40 p. 99-104)

### RIVER BOTTOMS

Lake Odessa, consisting of state owned area and the Louisa Unit of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, is a fine Mississippi River backwater slough. It is best covered by boat, although frequently in early fall the federal refuge allows car access on weekends. The typical breeding bottomland forest species are common as well as large numbers of migrating waterfowl. Large concentrations of Mallards often remain through the Christmas period occasionally accompanied by Canada Geese.

Lock 17 adjoins the Lake Odessa area, but is accessible only from the Illinois side of the river. It provides a good vantage point for observing Bald Eagles as does the waterfront area at New Boston, Illinois. The area between New Boston and Lock 17 is fine bottomland forest and supports a large heronry of Great Blue Herons, Common Egrets and some Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Breeding bottomland species are found in good numbers. While in this area anyone wishing to work a coniferous habitat can drive south past Keithsburg to the Henderson State Forest. Located in a sandy area it covers several hundred acres and is especially good for wintering owls. The Christmas Census in this whole area usually totals about sixty-five species.

Lock 16, located just upstream from Muscatine, provides another good winter location for observing Bald Eagles. One can see the entire area from Iowa by going straight toward the river where highway 61 turns right while southbound in eastern Muscatine. In Illinois an access road takes one right to the locks. Upstream on the Illinois side of the river a wide open expanse of river is usually good for migrating ducks.

Wyoming Hill is the local name for the high overlook along highway 22 east of Muscatine. Eagles can sometimes be seen from this spot and it allows one to get a good picture of the size of the bottomland forest at this point.

Weise Slough is a state area adjacent to the Cedar River near Atalissa. Some ducks linger here on their way north. Areas along the Cedar River near the slough are often good for observing fall shorebird migration.

Cone Marsh is a fine cattail marsh which is also a state owned area and is

located west of Conesville. Migrating waterfowl and shorebirds provide the most interesting groups of birds and many unusual birds seem to turn up at this location.

#### UPLAND AREAS

**Weed Park** is a city park in east Muscatine along the river bluff just off Highway 22. It consists of open oak area which is good for migrating passerines and wintering Red-headed Woodpeckers. Brushy area adjoining the park to the east are also frequently productive.

**Greenwood Cemetery** is a large old cemetery in the western part of Muscatine along Lucas Street. Several ravines border the cemetery providing the opportunity to observe treetop migrants without the usual neck bending. Winter Wrens often can be found in these ravines in season.

#### MIXED HABITAT AREAS

**Wild Cat Den State Park** provides one of the most interesting and diversified locations for breeding birds in eastern Iowa. Regular breeders include Whip-poor-will, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-winged Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Summer Tanager. Migrants can be observed from the limestone bluffs and along the creek trails. Pine plantings and surrounding farmland provides additional and more diversified habitat. The gravel road heading east from the mill area leads to the series of bluebird boxes which has been described previously (I.B.L. Vol. 39 p. 75-78, Vol. 32 p. 51-52). This area has many nesting Mockingbirds and a good variety of the more regular second growth and farmland breeders.

**Loud Thunder Forest Preserve** is another location of varied habitat. It is situated about three miles east of Illinois City, Illinois just off Highway 92 and adjacent to the Mississippi River. Despite the destruction of much habitat to build a completely unnecessary lake it is still a good area. Most of the preserve is heavily wooded and many of the breeders listed for Wild Cat Den are also found here. In addition river edge, sandy sections and a marshy backwater area on the west provide even greater diversification than Wild Cat Den.

We are in need of articles of this nature covering other Iowa areas. Please contact the editor if you are willing to contribute an article on your county.

## Iowa Bird Banding Summary for 1971

DEAN M. ROOSA  
Goldfield, Iowa

During 1971 the Iowa banding fraternity was somewhat enlarged. New banders include Dr. Dave Roslien, Assistant Professor of biology at Luther College, Decorah. Dave got his degree at Iowa State University and did his work in blood parasites in birds. It's good to have a bander in northeast part of Iowa, possibly the richest birding area in the state. Dr. Gerald Kaufmann, Assistant Professor at Loras College, Dubuque is now a licensed bander and specializes in rails. Dr. Jerome Jackson, Ass't Professor at Mississippi State University, has an endorsement for Iowa banding and has worked extensively with woodpeckers in the Burlington area. It is good to have two colleges in Iowa represented. Jim Rod,



formerly a sub-permittee of John Faaborg, now has a master permit. Jim is presently enrolled at Iowa State. Ruth Zollars, formerly a sub-permittee of Mrs. DeLong, now has her master permit. Mr. and Mrs. Zollars live in Shenandoah. Stephen S. Berlinger has replaced Robert Stratton as manager of Union Slough N.W.R. We extend a sincere welcome to all of you. Jim Kimsey, licensed bander who taught at Missouri Valley last year is now enrolled at Univ. of South Dakota. John Faaborg is now a graduate student at Princeton University. Sorry to see both of you leave Iowa.

Iowa banders continue to do a good job, as the following listing will show. It appears the only new species banded this past year was the Yellow-throated Warbler, caught by the Laytons. Nice record, folks. A close race developed between Pete Petersen and the Laytons, with Pete winning by a bill. He banded 3,207 birds while the Laytons decorated the tarsi of 3,138 birds. The Diggs also did a good job with over 2,000 birds captured. The Ayres netted another Chuck-will's-widow, showing continued incursion by this species. A species breakdown will again be sent to all banders at a later date. To clarify a point brought up by several banders, most of the birds banded by Mr. and Mrs. Diggs are banded almost directly on the Iowa-Missouri border. Since this is a man-made line the birds are all included with the Iowa totals. ed.)

Following is a list of Iowa banders and the number of species and individuals they banded in Iowa in 1971:

|  |                  |        |
|--|------------------|--------|
| Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa .....      | 85               | 1185   |
| Stephen S. Berlinger, Union Slough N.W.R. ....   | 3                | 251    |
| Gladys Black, Pleasantville .....                | 16               | 70     |
| Dr. Myrle Burk, Waterloo, .....                  | inactive in 1971 |        |
| Conservation Commission .....                    | 13               | 9113   |
| Mrs. W. C. DeLong, Lamoni .....                  | 76               | 1082   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Hamburg .....       | 111              | 2068   |
| John Faaborg, Princeton, N. J. ....              | 18               | 41     |
| Ken Formanek, Des Moines .....                   | 17               | 74     |
| Jerome A. Jackson, State College, Mississippi .. | 13               | 44     |
| Gerald Kaufmann, Dubuque .....                   | inactive in 1971 |        |
| Mr. and Mrs. Keith Layton, Oskaloosa .....       | 121              | 3138   |
| Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Lonnecker, Bettendorf .....   | 64               | 554    |
| Peter C. Petersen, Davenport .....               | 108              | 3216   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart, Marshalltown .....  | 68               | 704    |
| Jim Rod, Ames .....                              | 77               | 1283   |
| Dean M. Roosa, Goldfield .....                   | 4                | 105    |
| Mrs. Donald Walters, Essex .....                 | 39               | 150    |
| Mrs. E. C. Zollars, Shenandoah .....             | 66               | 905    |
| Totals .....                                     | 178              | 23,983 |

|                               |      |                          |      |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| Green Heron .....             | 5    | American Widgeon .....   | 28   |
| Yellow-crowned Night Heron .. | 1    | Shoveler .....           | 10   |
| American Bittern .....        | 1    | Wood Duck .....          | 1731 |
| Canada Goose .....            | 301  | Redhead .....            | 4    |
| Mallard .....                 | 2100 | Ring-necked Duck .....   | 2    |
| Gadwall .....                 | 15   | Hooded Merganser .....   | 2    |
| Pintail .....                 | 54   | Turkey Vulture .....     | 1    |
| Green-winged Teal .....       | 205  | Sharp-shinned Hawk ..... | 14   |
| Blue-winged Teal .....        | 1399 | Cooper's Hawk .....      | 1    |

# BIRD BANDING SUMMARY

19

|                                 |      |                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|-----|
| Red-tailed Hawk .....           | 4    | Blue Jay .....                  | 366 |
| Broad-winged Hawk .....         | 3    | Black-capped Chickadee .....    | 238 |
| Sparrow Hawk .....              | 12   | Tufted Titmouse .....           | 54  |
| Bobwhite .....                  | 13   | White-breasted Nuthatch .....   | 45  |
| Ring-necked Pheasant .....      | 2    | Red-breasted Nuthatch .....     | 6   |
| Sora .....                      | 1    | Brown Creeper .....             | 154 |
| Killdeer .....                  | 2    | House Wren .....                | 424 |
| Common Snipe .....              | 2    | Winter Wren .....               | 26  |
| Spotted Sandpiper .....         | 1    | Bewick's Wren .....             | 1   |
| Solitary Sandpiper .....        | 4    | Carolina Wren .....             | 2   |
| White-rumped Sandpiper .....    | 1    | Long-billed Marsh Wren .....    | 4   |
| Least Sandpiper .....           | 11   | Short-billed Marsh Wren .....   | 2   |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper .....    | 40   | Mockingbird .....               | 1   |
| Black Tern .....                | 12   | Catbird .....                   | 612 |
| Mourning Dove .....             | 3411 | Brown Thrasher .....            | 257 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo .....      | 19   | Robin .....                     | 814 |
| Black-billed Cuckoo .....       | 5    | Wood Thrush .....               | 35  |
| Screech Owl .....               | 11   | Hermit Thrush .....             | 92  |
| Great Horned Owl .....          | 13   | Swainson's Thrush .....         | 264 |
| Barred Owl .....                | 2    | Gray-cheeked Thrush .....       | 63  |
| Long-eared Owl .....            | 2    | Veery .....                     | 38  |
| Saw-whet Owl .....              | 11   | Eastern Bluebird .....          | 105 |
| Chuck-will's-widow .....        | 1    | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....     | 1   |
| Whip-poor-will .....            | 3    | Golden-crowned Kinglet .....    | 487 |
| Common Nighthawk .....          | 7    | Ruby-crowned Kinglet .....      | 280 |
| Chimney Swift .....             | 13   | Cedar Waxwing .....             | 5   |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird ..    | 9    | Loggerhead Shrike .....         | 13  |
| Belted Kingfisher .....         | 13   | Starling .....                  | 54  |
| Yellow-shafted Flicker .....    | 114  | White-eyed Vireo .....          | 2   |
| Red-shafted Flicker .....       | 1    | Bell's Vireo .....              | 8   |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker .....    | 38   | Yellow-throated Vireo .....     | 4   |
| Red-headed Woodpecker .....     | 48   | Solitary Vireo .....            | 28  |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....  | 12   | Red-eyed Vireo .....            | 161 |
| Hairy Woodpecker .....          | 37   | Philadelphia Vireo .....        | 17  |
| Downy Woodpecker .....          | 198  | Warbling Vireo .....            | 24  |
| Eastern Kingbird .....          | 23   | Black-and-white Warbler .....   | 55  |
| Crested Flycatcher .....        | 40   | Prothonotary Warbler .....      | 1   |
| Eastern Phoebe .....            | 75   | Worm-eating Warbler .....       | 1   |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher ..... | 71   | Golden-winged Warbler .....     | 5   |
| Acadian Flycatcher .....        | 44   | Blue-winged Warbler .....       | 7   |
| Traill's Flycatcher .....       | 66   | Tennessee Warbler .....         | 139 |
| Least Flycatcher .....          | 117  | Orange-crowned Warbler .....    | 131 |
| Eastern Wood Pewee .....        | 27   | Nashville Warbler .....         | 141 |
| Empidonax sp. flycatcher .....  | 4    | Parula Warbler .....            | 3   |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher .....    | 7    | Yellow Warbler .....            | 55  |
| Horned Lark .....               | 3    | Magnolia Warbler .....          | 77  |
| Bank Swallow .....              | 597  | Cape May Warbler .....          | 5   |
| Rough-winged Swallow .....      | 27   | Black-throated Blue Warbler ..  | 1   |
| Barn Swallow .....              | 76   | Myrtle Warbler .....            | 194 |
| Cliff Swallow .....             | 428  | Black-throated Green Warbler .. | 12  |
| Purple Martin .....             | 16   | Cerulean Warbler .....          | 1   |

|                               |     |                              |        |
|-------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|--------|
| Blackburnian Warbler .....    | 1   | Cardinal .....               | 270    |
| Yellow-throated Warbler ..... | 1   | Rose-breasted Grosbeak ..... | 263    |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler .....  | 67  | Indigo Bunting .....         | 198    |
| Bay-breasted Warbler .....    | 18  | Dickcissel .....             | 4      |
| Blackpoll Warbler .....       | 15  | Evening Grosbeak .....       | 1      |
| Palm Warbler .....            | 19  | Purple Finch .....           | 264    |
| Ovenbird .....                | 115 | Common Redpoll .....         | 1      |
| Northern Waterthrush .....    | 78  | Pine Siskin .....            | 3      |
| Louisiana Waterthrush .....   | 6   | American Goldfinch .....     | 424    |
| Kentucky Warbler .....        | 12  | Rufous-sided Towhee .....    | 18     |
| Connecticut Warbler .....     | 4   | Savannah Sparrow .....       | 36     |
| Mourning Warbler .....        | 48  | Grasshopper Sparrow .....    | 2      |
| Yellowthroat .....            | 143 | LeConte's Sparrow .....      | 10     |
| Yellow-breasted Chat .....    | 2   | Henslow's Sparrow .....      | 2      |
| Wilson's Warbler .....        | 103 | Vesper Sparrow .....         | 18     |
| Canada Warbler .....          | 62  | Lark Sparrow .....           | 1      |
| American Redstart .....       | 87  | Slate-colored Junco .....    | 1193   |
| House Sparrow .....           | 13  | Oregon Junco .....           | 6      |
| Bobolink .....                | 5   | Tree Sparrow .....           | 391    |
| Eastern Meadowlark .....      | 13  | Chipping Sparrow .....       | 42     |
| Western Meadowlark .....      | 4   | Clay-colored Sparrow .....   | 5      |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird ..... | 166 | Field Sparrow .....          | 92     |
| Red-winged-Blackbird .....    | 180 | Harris' Sparrow .....        | 145    |
| Orchard Oriole .....          | 21  | White-crowned Sparrow .....  | 31     |
| Baltimore Oriole .....        | 158 | White-throated Sparrow ..... | 400    |
| Rusty Blackbird .....         | 9   | Fox Sparrow .....            | 76     |
| Common Grackle .....          | 289 | Lincoln's Sparrow .....      | 159    |
| Brown-headed Cowbird .....    | 68  | Swamp Sparrow .....          | 125    |
| Scarlet Tanager .....         | 15  | Song Sparrow .....           | 268    |
| Summer Tanager .....          | 1   | Total individuals .....      | 23,983 |

## Weather Patterns and Warbler Movements

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AMES, IOWA

As temperatures drop to a brisk eighteen below zero during winter nights in January, one can not help but wonder if the warm breezes of April and May will ever again arrive in Iowa. They always do. With the arrival of spring come the waves of migrant warblers to fill the woodlands with their brilliant color and song. To the average birder who must work 40 hours a week, time is precious. He wants to make use of his time and checks arrival dates in Iowa to establish some idea of when to be out birding. Another source he should keep in mind when planning trips to the woodlands is weather maps and information they contain about weather conditions in his and surrounding areas. Knowledge of weather components and their influence on migrant warblers can be of value to the birder.

Weather can be divided into three main components, all of which may affect warbler migration. These are barometric pressure, temperature, and wind direction. They do not function independently, but are related to one another in



their effects on migratory movements (Curtiss, 1969).

All the average birder needs to know about barometric pressure is that it indicates the presence of a high or low pressure system. A low pressure generally indicates warm moist air moving in a counter-clockwise direction whereas high pressure indicates cooler drier air moving in a clockwise direction. Northward migration often occurs in the Northern Hemisphere when barometric pressure declines from east to west. Most observers agree that pronounced movements during spring migration will occur during the interval between the passage of a warm front or low pressure area and the subsequent arrival of a cold front or high pressure area.

Perhaps the single most important factor initiating migratory movements is a rise in temperature. Waves of warblers can often be correlated with maximum temperatures and the advance or retardation of warbler movements is influenced by daily temperature fluctuations.

One would expect small birds such as warblers to be affected by wind direction to a great extent. That this is apparently true is demonstrated by the fact that southerly winds produce the greatest flow of northbound warblers.

With these factors in mind the birder should now be able to profit from examining the daily nationwide weather maps that appear in many large newspapers. If the weather map indicates a warm front accompanied by southerly winds and slowly rising temperatures, one can expect migration to begin. Migration should be in full force after the passage of a warm front when barometer and temperature are both rising and wind has shifted to the southwest (Pettingill, 1970). The presence of large numbers of warblers in an area on any given day may not be the result of weather conditions to the south, however, but may be due to the presence of a cold front to the north or northwest which has resulted in retarded movement and the "piling up" of warblers unwilling to move further north (Williams, 1951). An examination of all existing weather patterns should help to distinguish this phenomenon from normal northward migration.

In an attempt to correlate weather patterns with warbler migration through Story County, Iowa, I conducted a study during the spring of 1968. Myrtle Warblers, usually the earliest migrants through central Iowa, first appeared on 16 April. On this day a warm front was moving into Iowa from the south which produced temperatures near 70 degrees. The next movements of warm air into the area occurred on 29 and 30 April. These days produced large numbers of Myrtles and the first Yellow Warblers. By 2 May a cold front had followed the warm front into Iowa resulting in temperatures in the low fifties. One would not expect this to be a good birding day but even more Myrtles were observed plus Nashville, Orange-crowned, and Palm Warblers. These birds had apparently entered Iowa during or shortly after the warm front of the previous few days. Perhaps migration was retarded on this day due to the presence of the cold front entering Iowa from the north and these new arrivals plus Myrtles already present were temporarily grounded.

By 4 May warmer air and southerly breezes were moving across Iowa and Blackpolls, Northern Waterthrushes, and Black-and-whites has arrived while Myrtle numbers decreased sharply. Generally stationary mild weather through 9 May produced no noticeable waves of warblers although Black-throated Greens, Tennessees, Ovenbirds, Wilson's, and Yellowthroats appeared during this period. By 14 May another warm front produced Cape Mays, Blackburnians, and Red-starts, but cool weather during the next three days apparently inhibited migration and only Tennessees were present in large numbers. Classroom responsibilities

prevented further field observations during May.

An examination of field reports in *Iowa Bird Life* covering the 1968 spring migration indicates a somewhat erratic warbler migration. However, it should be noted that almost without exception reported warbler waves occurred on all four weekends in May, suggesting to the writer that increased numbers of observers afield during these periods rather than actual numbers of warblers present may be responsible for these reports of apparent movements. The accompanying sample weather map demonstrates ideal weather conditions that should be conducive to good warbler movements through Iowa.

Perhaps an appraisal of weather conditions would have indicated waves as good or better on days other than weekends. At any rate, the birder may wish to try his hand at interpreting weather maps to more profitably plan his hours afield during upcoming spring migrations. An hour or two spent afield during the week on a day of peak movements may prove more rewarding than an entire day when weather conditions are less than ideal and satisfaction will be all the greater if the birder has predicted the wave himself.



Ideal weather conditions for Warbler movement in Iowa.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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*Iowa Bird Life*. 1968. Vol. XXXVIII, No. 2.  
 Pettingill, O. S. 1970. *Ornithology in Laboratory and Field*. Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Williams, G. G. 1950. Weather and Spring Migration. *Auk*, 67: 52-65.

## FIELD REPORTS

|              |             |               |             |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Akron        | Wallingford | Mason City    | Marble Rock |
| Webster City | Grinnell    | Cedar Falls   |             |
| Jefferson    |             | Waterloo      |             |
| Sioux City   |             | Cedar Rapids  |             |
| Ogden Ames   |             | Davenport     |             |
| Des Moines   |             | Iowa City     |             |
| Indianola    |             |               |             |
| Essex        | Shenandoah  | Pleasantville |             |
| Hamburg      | Lamoni      | Oskaloosa     |             |

#### WINTER SEASON, 1971-72

December was warmer than normal, and January was mild and open for the



first three weeks, with low temperatures and snow thereafter. The first three weeks of February were cold with heavy snow in many sections. The wintering northern species, other than juncos and Tree Sparrows, came somewhat later than usual but, with the coming of the extreme cold and snow, Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins began to come to feeders throughout the state.

**Hérons, Swans.** A Great Blue Heron was at Riverton as late as 2 December (RZ). There were 30 Whistling Swans at Riverton on 17 October, and 50 on 9 November (Don Priebe, fide RZ). John Beamer observed 3 at Lake Rathbun on 15 December (GB).

**Geese, Ducks.** Small flocks of Canadas have remained at Riverton (RS); Hamburg, some of the Giant variety (EAG); and Red Rock, 4 with colored neckbands (GB). The concentration of Blue and Snow Geese at Riverton was "spectacular" (RZ). Mallards, as usual, are the most numerous species seen during the winter with 500,000 estimated by Don Priebe at Riverton (RZ), and 16,000 at Red Rock (GB). A pair of Wood Ducks was seen at the latter place on 30 January (GB). Several hundred Golden-eyes have been seen at Lock 14 (PCP), and a similar number on the Missouri (DH).

**Hawks, Eagles.** All hawks were thought scarce (DG). Rough-legged were reported from several areas, but seemed not numerous. An immature Golden Eagle was seen on 18 October (JK), others in December (RZ,EG). In addition to the wintering Bald Eagles along the Mississippi, there are reports from Shenandoah, Hamburg, Red Rock, and a flock of 25 at Decatur Bend (DH). Marsh and Sparrow Hawks were thought numerous (RZ) but rather few in all other areas.

**Bobwhites, Pheasants.** Bobwhites were thought fewer (RZ), but Pheasants were abundant (JK,DH).

**Gulls, Doves.** A Glaucous Gull was seen from 5 December to the late date 11 January (PP). The number of Herring Gulls decreased with the arrival of the colder weather (PP). Reports of wintering Mourning Doves vary from rather numerous, or more than usual (DH,GB,DK) to very few (KL,CH).

**Owls, Woodpeckers.** Owls appeared generally scarce; no pellets all winter (CH), and no Short-eared was unusual (DG). Hairy, Downy, and Red-bellied were thought fewer (DH), but wintering Flickers and Red-headed seemed more numerous in other areas.

**Horned Larks, Jays, Crows.** Fewer than usual Horned Larks have been seen (DH) and around Des Moines, but all other reports commented upon the large numbers seen late in January and subsequently. Fewer Jays are wintering (JK). Two dissimilar reports on Crows: fewer (CH), and more (DK).

**Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens.** No Titmice have appeared at feeders, (BH,OU). All mentions of Red-breasted Nuthatches referred to their scarcity. Brown Creepers seemed more numerous (PK). A Winter Wren was seen on 18 December (RZ), but no one mentioned the Carolina Wren.

**Mimics, Thrushes.** Several Mockingbirds were seen in December (GDeL), and another on 13 February (KL). Wintering Brown Thrashers are reported (JMcL, HPe,GDeL,PP). Wintering Robins appear few. A very late Hermit Thrush was seen on 2 January (JB). On the same date 10 Bluebirds were seen at Red Rock (GB).

**Kinglets, Waxwings, Shrikes, Warblers.** Comments on numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets were either few, or none (RZ,DH). Cedar Waxwings were generally noted, but there was no mention of Bohemians. Wintering shrikes appeared scarce. Two unusual warbler observations are an Orange-crowned on 12 December (RZ), and 2 Myrtles north of Sabula on 1 January (PP).



**Icterids.** Meadowlarks were generally thought more numerous than in most years, but fewer in Sioux City and Des Moines. Four large flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds comparable to those seen in the spring migration were observed on 9 January (EG). Large numbers have been seen at Decatur Bend (DH); a flock of 60 at Red Rock on 2 January (GB) and many were in mixed flocks in Polk Co. late in December. A few Rusty Blackbirds were in the large Nahant roost (PP), and a single bird was in Jester Park on 21 January (DM). Six Brewer's Blackbirds in December constituted a first winter record in Lamoni (DG,GDeL). Single Common Grackles have been coming to feeders (PK,DM). Large flocks of mixed blackbirds in Des Moines late in December were largely composed of cowbirds.

**Finches, Sparrows.** Reports of Evening Grosbeaks are virtually state-wide. Purple Finches are widely reported, but their numbers appear somewhat smaller than in other years. There are two reports of Pine Grosbeaks: one was brought to Mrs. Ruegnitz (injured?) (GC), and a pair was observed on 10 February (PP). This appears to be another redpoll winter; reports have come from all over. Pine Siskins, likewise, are widely reported. The only reported Red Crossbills were seen on 10 February (PP). White-winged Crossbills came in February: Des Moines on the 6th (SS), the 9th at Iowa City (FK), the 10th at Davenport (PP). There were 6 at Clear Lake (no date) (Mrs. C. D. Swift, fide GB). Two Towhees of the spotted variety are wintering (DB). Juncos seem abundant with one dissenter (JK). Tree Sparrow reports are confusing: very scarce (EB), and few (FK,JK,PK,CH), but lots (FDeL) and 1,000 plus at Red Rock where it is the most abundant bird (GB). They have been coming to feeders which is unusual (BH). A few Harris' Sparrows are wintering (BH,DH). There have been White-crowns in December (RZ), January (GB), and February (HPr) with a Swamp Sparrow coming to a feeder (HPr). Longspurs, usually seen in winter, have been missing (EB), but many were seen with Horned Larks at the end of January (FK). Great numbers of Snow Buntings were seen in the Clear Lake, Mason City area (CH), with 4-5 near Des Moines (JB), and small numbers at Red Rock (GB).

The foregoing comments should be read in conjunction with the reports of the Christmas censuses.

**Contributors:** Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Joe and Dorothy Brown, Des Moines; E. J. Bryant, Akron; George Crossley, Dubuque; Mrs. Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni; Mrs. E. A. Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Mrs. Barbara Henderson, Wellman; Mrs. Clarise Hewitt, Jesup; Jim Keenan, Ogden; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Castalia; Keith Layton, Oskaloosa; Mrs. Patricia Layton, Cedar Rapids; Jack McLane, Danville; Dick Mooney, Des Moines; Ron Muilenburg, Webster City; Mrs. Helen Peasley, Des Moines; Peter C. Petersen, Davenport; Mrs. Herbert Prince, Keokuk; Mrs. Betty Savage, Marshalltown; Steve Stewart, Des Moines; Mrs. Orville Upp, Ottumwa; Mrs. Betty Walters, Essex; Mrs. Ruth Zollars, Shenandoah.

The deadline for notes on the spring season is 20 May. Woodward H. Brown, 432 Tonawanda Drive, Des Moines, 50312.

## Obituaries

**Alois J. (Al) Weber**, 72, Middle Road, died at 3:25 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10, 1972, in St. Joseph Hospital where he had been a patient since October 30, 1971. In his death Keokuk lost one of its staunchest advocates, as well as a most meticulous

historian and highly esteemed citizen.

A life long resident, he was born May 2, 1899, the son of Frank J. and Josphine Gorman Weber. After attending grade school in Keokuk, he was graduated from high school in St. Mary, Kansas and then attended the University of Iowa from which he was graduated with a degree in Commerce in 1922. His business career began with his father and brother Francis in the wholesale and retail hardware firm of A. Weber Company, established by his grandfather, Aloisius Weber, who came to Keokuk as one of its earliest settlers in 1857. As a student at the University of Iowa he enlisted in the army (SATC) October 1, 1918, and received his discharge December 19, 1918. The hardware firm was liquidated in 1938 and during World War II, Weber served as a hardware buyer for a munitions plant in Grand Island, Neb. and later worked for the Firestone Rubber Co. in Akron, Ohio, before returning to Keokuk in 1943.

A student all of his life, he was a self-schooled ornithologist who was much sought after for bird identification. His particular interest in this field, however, was the Bald Eagle, and in pursuit of its study corresponded widely with experts in the Audubon Society, government and fellow amateurs, as well as spending untold hours on the winter river front of Keokuk as one of the first, systematic counters of this vanishing species in the country. He was a member of the I.O.U. since 1929. A conservationist long before the current emphasis on ecology, he studied nature in all of its manifestations and was happy to share his knowledge with others.

Weber was an amateur historian who made himself an authority on the Mormons and Indians. He was instrumental in bringing the old sternwheel steamboat, the George M. Verity to Keokuk as a river museum, helped refurbish it and served on the first museum commjssion. With William Talbot and the late Charles Chappell and I. L. Younker, he was one of the founders of the now flourishing Lee County Historical Society and served as its first president. He was a past member of the Rotary club, one of the first members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and a member of St. Francis de Sales church.

Surviving is a sister, Mrs. Corinne W. Carter of Keokuk with whom he made his home, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Francis, in 1943, and an only niece, Ann W. Griffiss to whom he was the most devoted of uncles. From *The Daily Gate City* - Keokuk.

## GENERAL NOTES



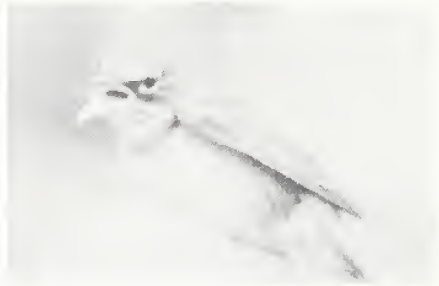
**Flock Behavior of Migrating Horned Larks** -- On a morning birding trip, March 16, 1971, through upland prairie habitat northwest of Des Moines, we encountered several quite large, migratory flocks of Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs, the larks far outnumbering the longspurs. Viewed through binoculars the flocks in flight appeared like insects, so numerous were the birds. The massed flight pattern had a curious boiling quality, like midgets dancing the sun, another aspect that heightened the insect-like illusion. The flocks danced and boiled their



way in a generally northward direction over the fields, and it was possible to keep up with individual flocks by driving ahead of them, then turning at right angles to their general direction of travel, and observing them first as a distant dusty cloud, and then nearer as a large flock of small birds.

On one of these leapfrogging maneuvers we noticed a hovering male Sparrow Hawk directly in the path of the oncoming flight. As the larks closed in on the hawk, thirty or so birds from the periphery of the flock appeared to reconnoiter the falcon, circling and surrounding him. The movement of the main flock was modified by this encounter. The rather homogeneous, boiling aspect of the group changed to a more chaotic appearance, their northward journey was slowed, but the main flock did not engulf the falcon, nor was there any apparent interruption of the falcon's routine. The small subflock did not harass the Sparrow Hawk, nor did he make any gesture of attack toward the larks. The whole action seemed that of a potential foe being temporarily neutralized by a scout force, while the main body of migrants passed cautiously by. The entire encounter consumed less than 10 minutes, and shortly afterward the larks dropped into a field to feed while the Sparrow Hawk, by now a mile to the south, continued his quartering. -- JOSEPH & DOROTHY BROWN, 3300 Lincoln Rd., Des Moines.

**Wintering Yellow-breasted Chat at Davenport** -- The first winter record of a Yellow-breasted Chat for Iowa occurred this winter. In mid-November, 1971 a chat began to frequent the feeder of Karen McDonald, 2118 N. Ohio, Davenport. The bird was observed daily through December and January until it was taken into her home during a period of sub-zero weather on January 16, 1972. Several days later Miss McDonald, an aviculturist but not a birder, called the Davenport Museum to have her identification verified. The author examined and photographed the bird on January 22



(see above). It appeared to be an old bird judging from the condition of the feet and legs. They were quite heavily scaled and the joints were not very functional. The bird was released after banding on March 11. -- PETER C. PETERSEN, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport.

## CONVENTION



Waterloo is the place and 19, 20, and 21 May are the dates for our 50th annual meeting. The weatherman has promised to cooperate and keep things a bit on the cool side so there will be plenty of birds still moving. Our host, the Waterloo



Audubon Society, and President John Osness have arrangements well in hand for our maximum comfort and convenience while in Waterloo.

Pre-registration for early arrivals will be Friday night at the Waterloo (formerly Grout) Museum of Science and History which is located at South and Park Streets one block from Highway 218 and two blocks from the Ramada Inn. The Museum will also be the location of the paper sessions on Saturday. On the agenda Friday night in addition to registration and visiting will be a program by Pete Petersen featuring birds photographed on the Petersens last trip to Trinidad.

Papers Saturday will range from the ornithological to the botanical and promise to be as varied and interesting as they have been in the past. The only change in the activities Saturday from the past will be an earlier adjournment to permit scheduling the banquet for 5:30 Saturday evening. This should prove to be a convenience for the majority of our members as the evening before our Sunday morning field trips won't be quite so short. The banquet Saturday night will be held at the Kimball Avenue United Methodist Church. Breakfast Sunday morning and lunch after the field trips will both be served in the Horizon Room of the YMCA and both meals will be buffet style.

Field trips Sunday will cover a variety of interesting habitats in the Waterloo area and our hosts assure us plenty of birds. Tours of the museum will be available through the courtesy of Mrs. Howard Woodbridge and two new showcases on "Birds of Prey" will be completed and ready for display by May.

All details of the weekend's activities and a program of events will follow shortly in a mailing along with complete directions for our convenience while in Waterloo. We are looking forward to receiving your registration shortly after you receive your mailing and our gracious hosts in Waterloo are looking forward to making our 50th anniversary meeting one of the most enjoyable and memorable ever. See you there!

## BOOK REVIEWS



**Birds of North America and How to Photograph Them -- Volume I -- Perry D. Slocum.** -- Published in cooperation with the Florida Audubon Society, Maitland, Florida -- 222p; 145 color photographs, 100 maps. -- 1971 -- paperbound -- \$12.95.

A very interesting book consisting primarily of a collection of color photographs, chiefly 8" x 10", of one hundred species of North American birds. It covers a good range of species from various parts of the area. Since it is volume one it is assumed the families covered lightly, such as warblers, will be dealt with to a greater extent in subsequent volumes. The quality of reproduction of the photographs is very good and is responsible for the relatively high cost of this volume. Nothing on identification is included, but range maps, a habitat statement

and nesting information, especially pertaining to the author's experience, is included. Much of the text is devoted to the details of the photographic techniques used by the author. An introductory section covers the general photographic methods one can use when dealing with birds including many diagrams.

Bird photographers may wish to purchase this volume, but it probably should be examined first. It is difficult to say what can be learned from studying the work of another photographer. As a representative example of the work of a bird photographer it has great merit. The binding does not appear to be very lasting for a book of this price. ed.

**Bird Behavior** -- John Sparks -- Grosset and Dunlop, New York -- 159 p. many color illustrations -- 1970 -- \$3.95, (paperbound edition -- \$1.45).

A very good introduction to the subject of bird behavior with fine illustrations. Written on a level easily comprehensible for anyone at the junior high level or above it is divided into sections so that almost every two page grouping projects its own topic completely. The illustrations convey much graphic impact and many major research studies are well capsulized.

All high school libraries should have this book, and if the remainder of the series is comparable they should be strongly considered. Experienced birders will learn from this volume and beginners should be strongly urged to read it. ed.

**The Birds of Korea** -- M. E. J. Gore and Pyong-ok Won -- Royal Asiatic Society, Seoul and Charles E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vermont -- 450p., 41 color plates, 24 pages of black and white photographs and four maps -- 1971 -- \$17.50.

A fine bi-lingual (English and Korean) book which covers all 366 species found in Korea and illustrates 230 of them in color. Species found only in North Korea are mentioned briefly. The entire range, identification characteristics, habitat and status are given for all species. The number of European birds present was surprising to this reviewer. It would have been good if the species not illustrated could have been limited to those found in Europe or North America as these are well represented in many other books while Asian species are not. This volume does provide us with the first comprehensive, color illustrated work on Korean birds. For that reason alone it is to be welcomed, additionally it is concisely written in both languages to foster birding among Koreans and is very well produced and bound. -- ed.

**Bald Eagles of the Chippewa Forest** -- Grand Rapids Herald Review, Grand Rapids, Minnesota -- 32p; many color photographs, one map -- 1971 -- paperbound -- \$1.00.

A very nicely done booklet on an area which produces many of the Bald Eagles which winter in Iowa. It begins with some general information on eagles and a description of Chippewa National Forest where there are now at least sixty-five pair of Bald Eagles nesting each year. The life history cycle is traced with emphasis on the breeding cycle when the birds are in the national forest area. The color photographs are well reproduced for the most part. Data on the nesting activity since 1963 is given as well as a list of publications on Bald Eagles for additional reference. The paper also has booklets on the Common Loon and Ruffed Grouse at the same price. ed.

## Cover

Another gifted Iowa bird artist, James Landenberger of Cedar Rapids, joins our list of cover artists for 1972, Mr. Landenberger, a member of the I.O.U., has had several solo art shows of his watercolors and is rapidly gaining nationwide recognition. ed.